

## Message Text

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13-12

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /129 W

----- 015478

R 022105Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648

UNCLAS USUN 0371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJECT: 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL-RATIONALIZATION OF  
PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS (AGENDA  
ITEM 4)

1. SUMMARY: THIS ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY UNDP DEPUTY ADMINIS-  
TRATOR (PROGRAM), MR I.G. PATEL ON JANUARY 27. HE SUMMARIZED  
THE CURRENT VIEWS OF THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR ON THIS TOPIC.  
SIX COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS.  
GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON MOST MATTERS UNDER THIS  
ITEM EXCEPT FOR THE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF WHETHER  
THE DOCUMENT CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE THE COUNTRY  
PROGRAM DOCUMENT TRANSLATED INTO ALL LANGUAGES, OR SOLELY  
AN ELABORATE NOTE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. THE COUNCIL PRESI-  
DENT SUGGESTED THAT MEMBERS HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO  
REACH A DECISION ON THIS ISSUE. THE OUTCOME OF THESE CON-  
SULTATIONS, WHICH ARE STILL IN PROCESS, WILL BE THE SUBJECT  
OF A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. INITIATING THE DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR  
PATEL INTRODUCED DOCUMENT DP/157, SAYING THAT THE 20TH  
GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION HAD ASKED THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR  
TO REPORT ON WAYS TO STREAMLINE THE PRESENT PROCEDURES  
FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS BY  
THE COUNCIL. DOCUMENT DP/157, MAKES A NUMBER OF COMMENTS  
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AND SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD. ON BALANCE, SAID MR.

PATEL, THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF USING BOTH THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTE AS THE BASIS FOR THE COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED, BUT WITH SOME STREAMLINING OF THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT ALONG THE LINES ENDORSED BY THE 20TH GC. THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO BELIEVES THE CURRENT PROCEDURE WHEREBY COUNTRY PROGRAMS ARE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE MEETINGS AND APPROVED AT PLENARY MEETINGS SHOULD BE RETAINED. THE ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRY PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TOWARD THE END OF THE SESSIONS IN ORDER TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR ITEMS REQUIRING LONGER DISCUSSION.

3. SIX COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION ON JANUARY 27. CANADA AGREED THAT CONSIDERATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE MEETINGS SHOULD BE CONTINUED, AND THAT ANY TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY IN WRITING TO THE UNDP. CANADA ASKED WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR KEEPING THE COUNCIL INFORMED OF MODIFICATIONS INTRODUCED DURING THE LIFE OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF COUNTRY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLANS COULD BE SHARED WITH INTERESTED DONORS. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SHARED THE VIEW THAT THE PRACTICE OF PRIVATE MEETINGS ON THE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND BELIEVED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPROVE PROGRAMS ON THE BASIS OF BOTH THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT AND THE PROGRAMMING NOTE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. DENMARK, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE NORDIC STATES, FAVORED USE OF A MODIFIED ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTE AS THE SOLE BASIS OF GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS, WITH THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT CHANGED TO THE STATUS OF AN INTERNAL WORKING DOCUMENT PRINTED IN ONLY ONE LANGUAGE AND MADE AVAILABLE ON A MUCH MORE LIMITED BASIS THAN PREVIOUSLY. THE NORDIC STATES AGREED THAT THE PRACTICE OF PRIVATE MEETINGS SHOULD BE RETAINED AND THAT GREATER USE MIGHT BE MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE PRACTICE OF SUBMITTING TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMS IN WRITING TO THE UNDP. THE ALSO FAVORED CONSIDERATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS TOWARD THE END OF COUNCIL SESSIONS. FRANCE URGED THAT THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT REMAIN THE COUNCIL'S UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIC WORKING DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ALL THE WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE COUNCIL. FRANCE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO FOCUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON ISSUES OF BROAD SIGNIFICANCE WITH SEPARATE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL MATTERS, BUT SAID THAT CONSIDERING COUNTRY PROGRAMS TOWARD THE END OF COUNCIL SESSIONS MIGHT RESULT IN HASTY, SUPERFICIAL CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAMS AND COULD IMPAIR THE COUNCIL'S EXERCISE OF ONE OF ITS MAIN PREROGATIVES. THE

U.S. (MR. EVANS) ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT AS A BASIS FOR THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL ACTION, AND SAID THAT CONSIDERATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT BE RELEGATED TO TOO LATE A STAGE IN COUNCIL SESSIONS WHERE IT MIGHT NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT ATTENTION. MOREOVER, IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES FREQUENTLY AROSE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COUNTRY PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD IMPLICATIONS FOR LATER AGENDA ITEMS. THE U.S. FAVORED THE PRACTICE OF SUBMITTING TECHNICAL COMMENTS IN WRITING TO THE UNDP AND NOTED ITS LONG-STANDING USE OF THAT PRACTICE WITH REGARD TO ITS OWN TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMS. THE US ALSO SAID IT ASSUMED THAT PROJECT APPROVALS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT DEALT WITH IN DOCUMENT DP/157.

4. DPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL, IN HIS RESPONSE, NOTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF PRIVATE MEETINGS, AND ON RETAINING THE PRACTICE OF GIVING COUNCIL MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ANY PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL WHILE AT SAME TIME ENCOURAGING EMPHASIS ON BROAD POLICY ISSUES DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WITH MORE TECHNICAL COMMENTS SUBMITTED SEPARATELY IN WRITING TO THE UNDP. HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL THAT COUNTRY PROGRAMS BE CONSIDERED TOWARD THE END OF EACH SESSION, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS DECISION ON TIMING COULD BE TAKEN WHEN THE AGENDA WAS BEING ADOPTED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SESSION. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD KEEP THE COUNCIL INFORMED ON REVISIONS IN COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AND THAT MANAGEMENT PLANS COULD BE SHARED WITH DONORS PROVIDED THE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS AGREED. IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION

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TION PROVIDE A DOCUMENT OUTLINING BASIC POLICY ISSUES REGARDING COUNTRY PROGRAMS MR PATEL SAID THAT THE STATEMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS IN CHARGE OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUS WERE ALSO INTENDED TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. THEREFORE SAID MR PATEL, ONLY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION ON WHICH MEMBERS NEEDED TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WAS WHETHER THE DOCUMENT CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE THE COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT TRANSLATED INTO ALL LANGUAGES, OR SOLELY AN ELABORATE NOTE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL SUGGESTED THAT MEMBERS HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SO THAT A DECISION ON THIS MATTER COULD BE APPROVED LATER IN THE PRESENT COUNCIL SESSION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL-RATIONALIZATION OF PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS (AGENDA  
**TAGS:** EAID, UNDP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006